

February 24, 1951.

Miss Marjorie Bohnhoff,  
Department of Medicine,  
950 East 59 Street,  
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Miss Bohnhoff:

Thank you for your letter of the 20th, and for the group of cultures which arrived yesterday. They have been put through the mill, and the results should be grinding out in a few days. I hope you did realize the number of isolates which will have to be examined before any very meaningful conclusions can be drawn. For this reason, I hesitate to ask for any more information than is necessary. However, I would appreciate a label as to source (feces; heart's blood), and particularly whether any of the cultures post radiation are of unusual virulence. For obvious reasons, I would hope to scrutinize such cultures with special care.

Unfortunately, the  $S^r$  mutations are not of particular value for my current experiments, and if anything, happen to be an occasional nuisance. In order to test it against the K-12 tester, which is  $TLB_1 - S^r$ , the propositus should be  $TLB_1 + S^s$ , so that  $TLB_1 + S^r$  recombinants can be selected on minimal streptomycin agar. The occasional mutations of the propositus from  $S^s$  to  $S^r$  are the most troublesome feature of the method, but not too serious an impediment.

We are in a position to use a battery of diagnostic tests (fermentations; phage and colicin responses) which should make it possible to classify your organisms to some extent. I would be glad to do some preliminary work in this direction in, for example, comparing the coliforms isolated from heart's blood with the pre-radiation enteric organisms, if you were interested to send the appropriate pairs of cultures.

May I suggest that some economy could be achieved in shipping the cultures by 3d or 4th class mail, which is permissible even with descriptive labels on the tubes, and also perhaps in using smaller tubes. The enclosed labels may help your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.